

REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicant notes that an IDS is being filed herewith having references discovered as the result of a search completed after the date of the Office Action to which this Amendment responds.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), indicating that the generally frustoconical wheel and rim were not shown. Applicant has added FIG. 3A, which is the same as FIG. 3 except it exaggerates the tapered surfaces defining the frustoconical shape to align the drawings with the specification and claims. Because the preferred angle is only one degree, it was not readily apparent simply from a review of the drawings that a frustoconical wheel and rim were part of the invention. Applicant submits that the inclusion of FIG. 3A overcomes the Examiner's rejection to support the corresponding claims and that no new matter has been added. Applicant has also amended the specification to add corresponding references to FIG. 3A without adding new matter.

The Examiner indicated that claims 20-23 are allowed and that claims 10-11, 14 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 22 has been amended to correct an antecedent issue without any substantive change to the claim and Applicant submits that claim 22 thus stands allowable in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Claims 10, 14 and 19 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments and Applicant submits that said claims are therefore allowable. Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and has therefore not been amended. Claims 2 and 5-9 have been amended to depend from claim 10, and claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 19, and these dependent claims should therefore be allowable as depending from an allowable claim in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Original claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and should also be allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 12 to correct the antecedent problem

in accordance with the Examiner's comments and submits that dependent claim 12 overcomes the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 12-13 and 15-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Atwood (US Patent 1,653,331). Claims 1, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled. Amendments have been made so that claims 2-7, 12-13 and 16 depend from allowable claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atwood in view of Kelly (US Patent 5,135,288). As noted above, claims 8-9 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 10.

Applicant has added new claims 24-34, including independent claims 24, 27 and 32. Applicant submits that the new claims present combinations not previously considered and that the limitations of said claims are not taught or suggested by the cited references, and that said claims are therefore allowable.

With regard to independent claim 24, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to teach or suggest that the side wall of the wheel defines at least one recessed area which is partially covered by the side wall therein when installed on the wheel and that the recessed area is adapted to receive a pry bar. Applicant submits that claim 24 is therefore allowable and that claims 25-26 are allowable as depending therefrom. Claim 24 includes some of the limitations of allowable claim 14.

With further regard to claim 26, Applicant submits that the cited references neither teach nor suggest a recess in the rim which is annular. The annular shape of the recess adds to the ability to access the recess with the pry bar from any direction and/or multiple directions at one time, thereby facilitating the ability to pry the rim off of the wheel. Applicant submits that claim 26 is therefore allowable.

With regard to independent claim 27, Applicant submits that the cited references neither teach nor suggest a rim including a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim nor that the flange extend outwardly away from the wheel nor the step of creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates sliding the rim onto the wheel. Applicant submits that claim 27 is therefore

allowable and that claims 28-31 are allowable as depending therefrom. Claim 27 includes some of the limitations of allowable claim 19.

Further claim 28, Applicant submits that the cited references neither teach nor suggest the step of applying pressure on the side wall or rim to create the spring bias, and that claim 28 is therefore allowable.

With further regard to claim 29, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the step of fastening the rim to the wheel to create the pressure on the side wall, and that claim 29 is therefore allowable.

With further regard to independent claim 32, applicant submits that the cited references neither teach nor suggest the side wall of the wheel defining at least one recessed area partially covered by the side wall of the rim nor the steps of inserting a pry bar into the at least one recessed area and prying the rim away from the wheel with a pry bar. Applicant submits that claim 32 is therefore allowable and that claims 33-34 are allowable as depending therefrom. Claim 32 includes some of the limitations of allowed claim 20.

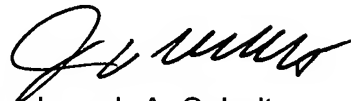
With further regard to claim 33, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim, that the flange extends outwardly away from the wheel, nor that the prying step further includes creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates the removal of the rim from the wheel. Applicant submits that claim 33 is therefore allowable.

With further regard to claim 34, Applicant submits that the cited references neither teach nor suggest a recess in the rim which is annular. The annular shape of the recess adds to the ability to access the recess with the pry bar from any direction and/or multiple directions at one time, thereby facilitating the ability to pry the rim off of the wheel. Applicant submits that claim 34 is therefore allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowability for the claims. Please call the undersigned attorney if any questions remain after this amendment.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 19th day of July, 2004.

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